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Message Text

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12
ORIGIN EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SNM-02 DEAE-00 H-01 PA-01 AID-05

RSC-01 /033 R

DRAFTED BY EA/TB - CLSTERMER:MFG
APPROVED BY EA/TB - GBROBERTS
S/NM - JRAFFERTY (DRAFT)
DEA - WYATES (DRAFT)
EA/RA - JZEROLIS (INFO)
---------- 112470
R 142227Z NOV 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY RANGOON
AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 251677

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SNAR, TH, BM
SUBJECT: FILM ON OPIUM WAR

REF: (A) CHIANG MAI A-03, OCTOBER 4, 1974
(B) BANGKOK POST, OCTOBER 20, 1974

1. THE DEPARTMENT HAS LEARNED THAT BRITISH TV CORRE-
SPONDENT ADRIAN COWELL'S FILM ON THE OPIUM WAR (REFERRED
TO IN REF B) WAS OFFERED TO CBS SEVERAL WEEKS AGO FOR A
SUBSTANTIAL SUM. COWELL'S AGENTS MAY BE NEGOTIATING WITH
OTHER COMPANIES TOO, BUT CBS HAS DEMURRED ON THIS OFFER
FOR THE TIME BEING. TWO DEA OFFICERS HAVE SEEN THE FILM.
THEY DESCRIBE IT AS AN INTERESTING ACCOUNT OF NARCOTICS
PRODUCTION AND TRAFFICKING ACTIVITIES BY VARIOUS BURMESE
DISSIDENT GROUPS WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON THE SHAN
STATE ARMY (SSA). COWELL NARRATES THE FILM AND CLAIMS,
FOR EXAMPLE, THAT MUCH OF IT WAS TAKEN WHILE ACCOMPANYING
THE SSA GROUP IN SHAN STATE. HE ALSO REFERS IN THE FILM
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TO CONTACTS MADE WITH INDIVIDUAL DEA AGENTS BY NAME.

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2. THOUGH EVIDENTLY UNINTERESTED IN THE FILM AT THE PRICE STATED, CBS INQUIRED OF DEA ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF SEEKING THEIR ASSISTANCE TO MAKE A SIMILAR FILM IN THAILAND. WE UNDERSTAND THAT DEA INTERNATIONAL OPERATIONS DIVISION CHIEF JACK CUSACK AND MEMBERS OF HIS PARTY, WHO MAY HAVE JUST ARRIVED IN BANGKOK, HAVE ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND DATA.

3. THE BANGKOK POST STORY ALSO REFERS TO THE SSA'S RECENT REPETITION OF THEIR 1973 OFFER TO SOLVE THE OPIUM PROBLEM. CAN WE ASSUME THAT ONE OF THE DOCUMENTS ENCLOSED IN REF A ("PROPOSALS TO TERMINATE OPIUM TRADE IN SHAN STATE") IS THE OFFER REFERRED TO IN THIS POST ARTICLE? WE HAVE INFORMED CONGRESSMAN LESTER WOLFF'S OFFICE AT A LOW LEVEL OF THIS PARTICULAR DEVELOPMENT, JUST IN CASE COWELL OR SOMEBODY ELSE SURFACES ANOTHER COPY OF THIS PROPOSAL FOR HIS INFORMATION.

4. ADDRESSEE COMMENTS WOULD BE APPRECIATED. INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DRUG CONTROL, FILMS, OPIUM
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cunninfx
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE251677
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: CLSTERMER:MFG
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740329-0901
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741142/aaaabjkt.tel
Line Count: 80
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Review Event:
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Review Media Identifier:
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Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FILM ON OPIUM WAR
TAGS: SNAR, TH, BM, UK, (COWELL, ADRIAN)
To: BANGKOK CHIANG MAI
Type: TE
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